The Athenian Mercury.

THE Following Alphabet *was ſent to us; and, upon Examination, we find it Poſſible to make near an Hundred* Alphabets *out of it; which its Impoſſible any one in the World ſhould ever Decipher.*

	ALPHABET.
A	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
B	n | o | p | q | r | ſ | t | u | w | x | y | z
C	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
D	z | n | o | p | q | r | ſ | t | u | w | x | y
E	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
F	y | z | n | o | p | q | r | ſ | t | u | w | x
G	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
H	x | y | z | n | o | p | q | r | ſ | t | u | w
I	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
K	w | x | y | z | n | o | p | q | r | ſ | t | u
L	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
M	u | w | x | y | z | n | o | p | q | r | ſ | t
N	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
O	t | u | w | x | y | z | n | o | p | q | r | ſ
P	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
Q	ſ | t | u | w | x | y | z | n | o | p | q | r
R	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
S	r | ſ | t | u | w | x | y | z | n | o | p | q
T	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
U	q | r | ſ | t | u | w | x | y | z | n | o | p
W	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
X	p | q | r | ſ | t | u | w | x | y | z | n | o
Y	a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | k | l | m
Z	o | p | q | r | ſ | t | u | w | x | y | z | n

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

Having

Having in Diſcourſe and Hiſtory, met with ſome things, whereof I and Others were not very well ſatisfied, we willingly ſubmit them to your determination, whom we preſume, in regard to your great Love of, and Diligence in, Matters of Learning, will for Ours and the Publick Good declare the Truth of each Queſtion propos'd, which ſavour not of that Mechanical Non-ſence, or amorous Fiddle-Faddle, which may be nauſeous to, or offend, either you or your Readers, but meerly matter Hiſtorical, or Geographical, but that I may not ſeem too long, I'll propoſe my Queries.

Queſt. 1. *Whether or no, there be any probability in this,* viz *that* Ἀντιουεσιον, *or* Antiveſtæum *of* Ptolomy, *a Promontory of* England, *were ſo call'd becauſe, over againſt the Iſland* Uſchant, *or as it is in* Berry's *Map of* France, Oueſſant, *whereas I find 'tis by* Pliny, *and thoſe of that Age, call'd* Sena, *and whether or no, if there be any probability of it, Mr.* E. T. *of* Queens *Colledge,* Oxford, *do not deſerve to have his Name written in Letters of Braſs upon a Pillar, which the Inhabitants ſhould erect in Honour of one who has been ſo diligent in ſearch of their Antiquity, and in finding out what the Learned* Cambden, *or the Reſt never did.*

Queſt. 2. *Whether or no Prince* Meredith *of* Wales, *did not find out the fourth Quarter Geographical, of the Earth, long before* Columbus, *or* Americus *were born.*

Anſ. 1. To us there appears a great probability of the Truth of the diſcovery, and 'twou'd be a great happineſs to bleſs the Age with it, and the Ingenious, whoſe Study lies that way, can't but own their Gratitude.

Anſ. 2. We find not one that gives any credible account of this, or any other *Meredith*, as the Author of ſuch a diſcovery, but yet we can't deny the poſſibility of it. Since we find Mr. *Harvey*, ſo much celebrated for finding out the *Circulation of the Blood*, when we are very well aſſured, it was found out long before him, and we alſo know from whom he borrowed the Knowledge of it in his Travels.

Queſt. 3. *I do read moſt of your* Mercuries, *but have not the opportunity to be often in Town, to ſee your Appendices at the Bookſellers, nor ſpare money to purchaſe your Volumes; Yet your frequent Promiſes to Anſwer all Queſtions whatſoever, has put me to ſome pence charge, to have your Opinion, Whether it be lawful to make uſe of Lots for Diverſion, as Cards and Dice in Gaming, which you have never as yet been pleaſed to take any notice of; pray prevent my troubling of you, or my ſelf any farther, by the leaſt touch of your Pen, and you will very much oblige,* &c.

Anſw. Yes certainly, provided it runs you into neither Paſſion nor Covetouſneſs, and be made uſe of at ſuch times as your Mind has need of Divertiſements: Though there's certainly much nobler Recreations, as *Hiſtory, Mathematicks,* &c.

Queſt. 4. *Whether the Fates of* Kingdoms, *and* Particulars Perſons, *may be read in the Heavens, in the Aſpects and Influences of the Planets? What can be offer'd in favour of the I know not What's, the* Parts *of* Fortunes, Dragon's-Head, *and* Dragon's-Tail——— *The Direction by Accidents in the Genethliacal part of Aſtrology? And ſuppoſing the pretences of common* Aſtrologers *be true, whether a Chriſtian may lawfully and prudently make uſe of ſuch* Arts *to predict Futurities.*

Anſw. Theſe Queſtions, or moſt part of 'em, we have handled *ex profeſſo*, and very largely, in ſome of our Firſt Volumes, to which we refer the Reader. Onely here conſidering thoſe two laſt Doubts; concerning the *lawfulneſs* and *prudence* of uſing ſuch *Arts*; ſuppoſing there's really any thing in them. For their *lawfulneſs*, ſome of the very Heathens were againſt it, and thoſe not the beſt Moraliſts neither: Horaces "*Tu ne quæſieris ſcire, nefas!* &c. is ſufficiently famous—— But, beſides, it ſeems an invading God's *propriety*, to whom all *ſecret*, much more *future* things belong; he onely knowing and determining what *poſſibles* ſhall be actually *future*, among the infinite *effects* which may be ſo. But were it *lawful*, we can't think it *prudent*, for either this *good* or *evil* ſhall certainly come to *paſs*, or it *ſhall not*—— But, in either caſe, our *knowledge* can have no *Influence* thereon: Beſides, it *diſtracts* our *Minds*, *diverts* 'em from a firm *dependance* on *Heaven*, or uſing any *rational means* to avoid any *evil*, and renders Men weak, ſuperſtitious and *miſerable*--And indeed, there are too many Inſtances to be given of thoſe who have been extreamly addicted to theſe kind of *Follies*, who, whether by *God's Judgement*, or the natural *tendency* of the *thing*, have been the moſt *unfortunate perſons* in the World.

Queſt. 5. *I have often been troubled on reading the 4th, 5th & 6th Verſes of the 6th Chapter to the* Hebrews--- For it is *impoſſible* for thoſe that were *once enlightened,* &c. *I ſhou'd be highly obliged to you for the* Expoſition *of this* place; *for I'm in ſuch Circumſtances, that it ſeems to make my* Caſe Deſperate. *Pray fail not an Anſwer of this with all* ſpeed convenient.

Anſw. It has already been diſcuſt in a former Paper, to which we muſt refer the *Queriſt*; once more deſiring him, and others, to conſult our Indexes, before they trouble themſelves and us with what has been ſometimes *more* than *once* reply'd to. As to the reſt of the Letter, we Promiſe it a *Private Anſwer*, if the Gentleman will have *patience* but a few days longer, and, in the mean time, hope, he *Remembers what he there Reſolves.*

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